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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DAHLKEMPER (for herself and Mr. LIPINSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010.

Whereas the Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other people, including Poland's First Lady, deputy foreign minister, dozens of members of Parliament, the chiefs of the army and navy, and the president of the national bank, were killed in a plane crash in western Russia on April 10, 2010;

Whereas President Kaczynski and his colleagues were traveling to Katyn, Russia for a memorial service to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet secret police killing of

more than 20,000 Polish officers, prisoners, and intellectuals who were captured after the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939;

Whereas Ryszard Kaczorowski, who served as Poland's final president in exile before the country's return to democracy, perished;

Whereas Anna Walentynowicz, the former dock worker whose firing in 1980 sparked the Solidarity strike that ultimately overthrew the Polish communist government, was also killed in the crash;

Whereas respected Chicago artist Wojciech Seweryn, whose father was killed in Katyn, and who recently completed a memorial to the victims of Katyn at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Illinois, which Polish President Kaczynski planned to visit in May, died in the crash as well;

Whereas Russia and Poland had begun to heal the deep wounds from the Katyn tragedy, with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin recently joining Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk at a ceremony marking the event at Katyn;

Whereas Prime Minister Putin, the first Russian leader ever to attend the Katyn commemoration said "we bow our heads to those who bravely met death here";

Whereas more than 9,000,000 Americans of Polish descent now reside in the United States, including in major metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Detroit, and New York City;

Whereas the American people stood in support of the Solidarity movement as it fought against the oppression of the Polish communist government through peaceful means, eventually leading to Solidarity members being

elected to office in partially free democratic elections held on June 4, 1989;

Whereas Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999 and has since contributed to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas the United States and Poland share a strong bond of friendship and international cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) mourns the death of President Kaczynski
3 and the terrible loss of life that resulted from the
4 plane crash of April 10, 2010;

5 (2) expresses its deepest sympathies to the peo-
6 ple of Poland and the families of those who perished
7 for their profound loss;

8 (3) expresses strong and continued solidarity
9 with the people of Poland and all persons of Polish
10 descent; and

11 (4) expresses unwavering support for the Polish
12 government as it works to overcome the loss of many
13 key public officials.